

175.34 Soil conservation loan program.

1. The authority shall establish a soil conservation loan program to facilitate the implementation of permanent soil and water conservation practices and the acquisition of conservation farm equipment for agricultural land within the state by making financing for this program available to credit worthy owners or operators of agricultural land within the state. The authority may provide this financing under the program by direct loans, loans to lenders, and the purchase of loans in the manner provided in sections 175.13 through 175.15, except that the financing pursuant to these sections shall not be limited to beginning farmers. In addition under the program, the authority may enter into a loan agreement with the owner or operator to finance in whole or in part the implementation of permanent soil and water conservation practices and the acquisition of conservation farm equipment for agricultural land in the state. The repayment obligation of the owner or operator may be unsecured, or may be secured by a mortgage or security agreement or by other security as the authority deems advisable, and may be evidenced by one or more notes of the owner or operator. The loan agreement may contain terms and conditions as the authority deems advisable.

2. In addition to the other conditions and criteria established for the soil conservation loan program, the following apply:

a. Loans made pursuant to the soil conservation loan program shall only be made to the owner or operator of a farm located within the state for which a conservation plan has been developed by the soil and water conservation district and the project for which the loan is to be made has been approved by the district. However, loans under the soil conservation loan program for implementation of a permanent soil and water conservation practice shall not be remitted to the applicant until the applicant provides evidence that payment of the permanent soil and water conservation practice is arranged for and the soil and water conservation district certifies that the practice is completed and approved.

b. The program and financing provided pursuant to the program shall not be limited to beginning farmers but shall be available to all credit worthy owners or operators of agricultural land within the state, however in providing financing for the acquisition of conservation farm equipment preference shall be given those owners or operators of agricultural land who have the lower net worths.

c. The division of soil conservation or any other state agency and the commissioners and staffs of the soil and water conservation districts may provide technical and financial assistance to the authority or in connection with the soil conservation loan program to assure the success of this program.

d. The amount of financing that may be provided under the soil conservation loan program shall not exceed the cost of implementing the permanent soil and water conservation practice or of acquiring the conservation farm equipment which the owner or operator is seeking to implement or acquire less any amounts the owner or operator will receive in public cost-sharing funds under chapter 161A or other provisions of state or federal law for the implementation or acquisition. However, the maximum amount of loans that an owner or operator may receive pursuant to this program shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars for permanent soil and water conservation practices and fifty thousand dollars for conservation farm equipment.

e. If a cooperator of a soil and water conservation district qualifies for cost sharing under a state soil conservation cost share program, the cooperator is eligible for a loan request. In granting these requests the authority shall give preference to those with the lower net worths.

3. The authority may issue its bonds and notes for the purposes set forth in subsection 1 and may enter into a lending agreement or purchase agreement with one or more bondholders or noteholders containing the terms and conditions of the repayment of and the security for the bonds or notes. Bonds and notes must be authorized by a resolution of the authority. However, the authority shall not have a total principal amount of bonds and notes outstanding under this section at any time in excess of twenty-five percent of the limitation on the amount of bonds and notes at any time specified in section 175.17, subsection 1. The authority and the bondholders or noteholders may enter into an agreement to provide for any of the following:

a. That the proceeds of the bonds and notes and investments thereon may be received,

held, and disbursed by the bondholders or noteholders, or by a trustee or agent designated by the authority.

b. That the bondholders or noteholders or a trustee or agent designated by the authority, may collect, invest, and apply the amounts payable under the loan agreement or any other security instrument securing the debt obligation of the owner or operator of the agricultural land.

c. That the bondholders or noteholders may enforce the remedies provided in the loan agreement or security instrument on their own behalf without the appointment or designation of a trustee and if there is a default in the principal of or interest on the bonds or notes or in the performance of any agreement contained therein, the payment or performance may be enforced in accordance with the provisions contained therein.

d. That if there is a default in the payment of the principal or interest on a mortgage or security instrument or a violation of an agreement contained in the mortgage or security instrument, the mortgage or security instrument may be foreclosed or enforced and any collateral sold under proceedings or actions permitted by law and a trustee under the mortgage or security agreement or the holder of any bonds or notes secured thereby may become a purchaser if it is the highest bidder.

e. Other terms and conditions.

4. The authority may provide in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or notes that the principal and interest are limited obligations payable solely out of the revenues derived from the debt obligation, collateral, or other security furnished by or on behalf of the owner or operator of the agricultural land, and that the principal and interest do not constitute an indebtedness of the authority or a charge against its general credit or general fund.

5. The powers granted the authority under this section are in addition to other powers contained in this chapter. All other provisions of this chapter, except section 175.12, section 175.17, subsection 9 and section 175.19, subsection 4, apply to bonds or notes issued pursuant to and powers granted to the authority under this section except to the extent that they are inconsistent with this section.

[82 Acts, ch 1243, §1]

83 Acts, ch 93, §2; 87 Acts, ch 23, §5